IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 7-12, 14 and 15, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1. (original) A motion image coding apparatus which codes a motion image by executing motion compensation for frame data to be coded by referring to a plurality of frame data in the motion image, comprising:

detecting means for detecting a motion of an imaging device;

a plurality of storage means for storing said plurality of frame data;

selecting means for selecting, from said plurality of storage means, on the basis of motion information detected by said detecting means, storage means for storing reference frame data to be referred to when the frame data to be coded is coded;

estimating means for estimating a motion vector on the basis of the reference frame data stored in said storage means selected by said selecting means and the frame data to be coded;

coding means for coding the frame data to be coded by using the motion vector estimated by said estimating means; and

output means for outputting the coded data which is coded by said coding means.

2. (original) The motion image coding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said detecting means detects the motion of said imaging device on the basis of a motion image sensed by said imaging device.

3. (original) The motion image coding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said selecting means comprises control means for controlling write/read and power supply to said plurality of storage means on the basis of the motion information detected by said detecting means.

4. (original) The motion image coding apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising setting means for setting an image sensing mode of said imaging device,

wherein said selecting means comprises control means for controlling write/read and power supply to said plurality of storage means on the basis of the image sensing mode set by said setting means.

5. (original) The motion image coding apparatus according to claim 3 or 4, wherein said control means stops power supply to storage means not selected by said selecting means.

6. (original) The motion image coding apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising search range control means for controlling a motion vector search range of said estimating means on the basis of the motion image detected by said detecting means.

7. - 12. (canceled)

13. (original) A control method of a motion image coding apparatus which comprises a plurality of storage units for storing a plurality of frame data in a motion image, and codes the motion image by executing motion compensation for frame data to be coded by referring to frame data stored in the plurality of storage units, comprising:

a detection step of detecting a motion of an imaging device;

a selection step of selecting, from the plurality of storage units, on the basis of motion information detected in the detection step, a storage unit for storing reference frame data to be referred to when the frame data to be coded is coded;

an estimation step of estimating a motion vector on the basis of the reference frame data stored in the storage unit selected in the selection step and the frame data to be coded;

a coding step of coding the frame data to be coded by using the motion vector estimated in the estimation step; and

an output step of outputting the coded data which is coded in the coding step.

14. - 15. (canceled)

16. (original) A program for implementing control of a motion image coding apparatus which comprises a plurality of storage units for storing a plurality of frame data in a motion image, and codes the motion image by executing motion compensation for frame data to be coded by referring to frame data stored in the plurality of storage units, comprising program codes of:

a detection step of detecting a motion of an imaging device;

a selection step of selecting, from the plurality of storage units, on the basis of motion information detected in the detection step, a storage unit for storing reference frame data to be referred to when the frame data to be coded is coded;

an estimation step of estimating a motion vector on the basis of the reference frame data stored in the storage unit selected in the selection step and the frame data to be coded;

a coding step of coding the frame data to be coded by using the motion vector estimated in the estimation step; and

an output step of outputting the coded data which is coded in the coding step.

17. (original) A program for implementing control of a motion image coding apparatus which comprises a plurality of storage units for storing a plurality of frame data in a motion image, and codes a motion image by executing motion compensation for frame data to be coded by referring to frame data stored in the plurality of storage units, comprising program codes of:

a program code of a setting step of setting an image sensing mode of an imaging device;

a program code of a selection step of selecting, from the plurality of storage units, on the basis of the image sensing mode set in the setting step, a storage unit for storing reference frame data to be referred to when the frame data to be coded is coded;

an estimation step of estimating a motion vector on the basis of the reference frame data stored in the storage unit selected in the selection step and the frame data to be coded;

a coding step of coding the frame data to be coded by using the motion vector estimated in the estimation step; and

an output step of outputting the coded data which is coded in the coding step.

18. (original) A program for implementing control of a motion image coding apparatus which comprises a storage unit for storing a motion image, and codes the motion image by executing motion compensation for frame data to be coded by referring to frame data stored in the storage unit, comprising program codes of:

an input step of inputting control information which controls an imaging device;

a setting step of setting the number of reference frame data to be referred to when the frame data to be coded is coded, on the basis of motion information of the imaging device, which is acquired on the basis of the control information input in the input step;

an acquisition step of acquiring reference frame data corresponding to the number of reference frame data set in the setting step;

an estimation step of estimating a motion vector on the basis of the reference frame data acquired in the acquisition step and the frame data to be coded;

a coding step of coding the frame data to be coded by using the motion vector estimated in the estimation step; and

an output step of outputting the coded data which is coded in the coding step.